

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A composition comprising an isolated, adult *Taenia solium* excretory/secretory polypeptide.

2. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the polypeptide has a molecular weight selected from the group of approximately 33 kDa, 38 kDa, and 42 kDa, as determined by SDS-PAGE analysis.

3. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the polypeptide has a molecular weight selected from the group of approximately 32.7 kDa, 37.8 kDa, or 42.1 kDa, as determined by SDS-PAGE analysis.

4. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the polypeptide is a mixture of two or more isolated, adult *Taenia solium* excretory/secretory polypeptides having a molecular weight selected from the group of approximately 33 kDa, 38 kDa, and 42 kDa, as determined by SDS-PAGE analysis.

5. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the polypeptide is a mixture of two or more isolated, adult *Taenia solium* excretory/secretory polypeptides having a molecular weight selected from the group of approximately 32.7 kDa, 37.8 kDa, or 42.1 kDa, as determined by SDS-PAGE analysis.

6. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the polypeptide is a mixture of three isolated, adult *Taenia solium* excretory/secretory polypeptides having molecular weights of approximately 33 kDa, 38 kDa, and 42 kDa, respectively, as determined by SDS-PAGE analysis.

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5 7. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the polypeptide is a mixture of three isolated, adult *Taenia solium* excretory/secretory polypeptides having molecular weights of approximately 32.7 kDa, 37.8 kDa, or 42.1 kDa, respectively, as determined by SDS-PAGE analysis.

10 8. A method for detecting *T. solium* in a biological sample comprising combining the sample with a composition comprising an isolated, adult *Taenia solium* excretory/secretory polypeptide and detecting the binding of the polypeptide to an anti-polypeptide antibody in the sample.

15 9. The method of Claim 8 wherein the polypeptide has a molecular weight selected from the group of approximately 33 kDa, 38 kDa, and 42 kDa, as determined by SDS-PAGE analysis.

20 10. The method of Claim 8 wherein the polypeptide has a molecular weight selected from the group of approximately 32.7 kDa, 37.8 kDa, or 42.1 kDa, as determined by SDS-PAGE analysis.

25 11. The method of Claim 8 wherein the polypeptide is a mixture of two or more isolated, adult *Taenia solium* excretory/secretory polypeptides having a molecular weight selected from the group of approximately 33 kDa, 38 kDa, and 42 kDa, as determined by SDS-PAGE analysis.

30 12. The method of Claim 8 wherein the polypeptide is a mixture of two or more isolated, adult *Taenia solium* excretory/secretory polypeptides having a molecular weight selected from the group of approximately 32.7 kDa, 37.8 kDa, or 42.1 kDa, as determined by SDS-PAGE analysis.

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13. The method of Claim 8 wherein the polypeptide is a mixture of three isolated, adult *Taenia solium* excretory/secretory polypeptides having molecular weights of approximately 33 kDa, 38 kDa, and 42 kDa, respectively, as determined by SDS-PAGE analysis.

14. The method of Claim 8 wherein the polypeptide is a mixture of three isolated, adult *Taenia solium* excretory/secretory polypeptides having molecular weights of approximately 32.7 kDa, 37.8 kDa, or 42.1 kDa, respectively, as determined by SDS-PAGE analysis.

15. The method of Claim 8 wherein the binding is detected by immunoassay.

16. The method of Claim 15 wherein the immunoassay is an immunoblot assay.

17. The method of Claim 8 wherein the biological sample is a biological fluid.

18. The method of Claim 8 wherein the biological sample is a biological fluid selected from the group consisting of blood serum, blood plasma and saliva.

19. A method for diagnosing taeniasis in a human comprising contacting a biological sample of the human with an adult *Taenia solium* excretory/secretory polypeptide and detecting the binding of antibody present in the biological sample to the polypeptide, wherein the detection of binding indicates taeniasis.

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20. The method of ~~Claim 19~~ wherein the polypeptide has a molecular weight selected from the group consisting of approximately 33 kDa, 38 kDa, and 42 kDa, as determined by SDS-PAGE analysis.

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